



**State of New
Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

February 2012

Table of Contents

Accountability, Assessment, Curriculum, and School Improvement.....	Page 2
Certification	Page 2
Data.....	Page 3
Funding	Page 3
Grants and Requests For Proposals (RFP)	Page 3
Hearings	Page 4
Innovations/Initiatives	Page 5
School Approval Standards	Page 5
Special Education.....	Page 6
Professional Development.....	Page 6
Resources	Page 8
Other	
• Awards.....	Page 9
• Scholarships	Page 9
• Contests.....	Page 10
• Grants	Page 11
• Conferences/Workshops.....	Page 12
• Misc.	Page 12

ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Results

The results of the Fall 2011 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) for grades three through eight and high school were released on January 31, 2012. Statewide in mathematics, performance in every grade matched or exceeded the best historical results, with sixty-seven percent of all students across grades third through eighth and eleventh demonstrating proficiency in mathematics (up two percentage points from last year). Reading performance in every grade except fifth matched or exceeded the best historical performance, with seventy-nine percent of all students across grades third through eighth and eleventh demonstrating proficiency (up two percentage points from last year). Writing results at grades five, eight and eleven decreased one percentage point from last year to fifty-four percent of all students across the three grades demonstrating proficiency. More information can be found at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/necap/index.htm.

Contact: Tim Kurtz, (603) 271-3846, Timothy.Kurtz@doe.nh.gov

B. Assistance with the Common Core State Standards

Christine Downing, former Mathematics Consultant for the NH DOE, has been contracted by the DOE to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Christine is available to provide assistance to districts/schools in the alignment and implementation of CCSS. Also, the DOE would like to know what resources, tools, and support might be useful to schools and districts as work is conducted relating to CCSS implementation. Please contact Christine at christine.downing@yahoo.com.

CERTIFICATION

A. Employment Reporting

Just a reminder that all educators employed with New Hampshire districts must have their employment status updated every year. This includes all SAU office staff, such as the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Business Administrator. This will effect their ability to renew online if the employment information is not updated. The Bureau of Credentialing is relying on districts to enter the data as we no longer use the Personnel Action Form (PAF). For technical issues with the i4see uploads please contact i4see.help@doe.nh.gov.

Contact: Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov or
Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196 Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov.

B. Renewal

All educator renewals are due no later than June 30, 2012.

Contact: Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov or
Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196 Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov.

C. Alternative 4 and 5 certification plans.

All educators employed at the start of school under Alternative 4 or 5 should have submitted their Alternative plans for certification by this time.

Contact: Rilma Nickerson, (603)271-3873, Rilma.Nickerson@doe.nh.gov or
Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results were collected from 1,413 students in 58 of the randomly selected public high schools in New Hampshire during the spring of 2011. Randomly selected classes of students completed a self-administered, anonymous questionnaire. Survey procedures were designed to protect the privacy of students by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. Local parental permission procedures were followed before survey administration. The results of the NH YRBS are available on the NH Department of Education Web site at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_health/hiv_data.htm.

Contact: Mary Bubnis, (603) 271-3889, Mary.Bubnis@doe.nh.gov

FUNDING

A. School Facilities

We still have a number of "No Smoking" signs suitable to be mounted outside. There is no cost for the signs.

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker, (603) 271-3620, Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. Educational Surrogate Parent Program: Regional Master Surrogate Parents

The NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education is seeking proposals from individuals for up to five (5) Regional Master Educational Surrogate Parents who will be responsible for providing management, phone support, and e-mail support for educational surrogate parents in their assigned region. The five (5) regional groups are: (1) North County; (2) Lakes Region; (3) Southwest; (4) South Central; and, (5) Southeast. Deadline for receipt of proposals: 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 2, 2012.

Contact: Barbara Raymond: (603) 271-3791, Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

B. NH Statewide Assessment System NH Alternate Learning Progressions Assessment (NH ALPs)

New Hampshire intends to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a single contractor to assist in the ongoing development and administration of the NH-ALPS at grades 2-8, and 10-11. NH-ALPS is the academic assessment based on alternate achievement standards

(AA/AAS) for students with the most cognitive disabilities. Video-based performance assessments are administered annually to approximately 1500 students across the 9 grades. The RFP will be issued March 1, 2012.

Contact: Tim Kurtz, (603) 271-3846, Timothy.Kurtz@doe.nh.gov or
Gaye Fedorchak, (603) 271-7383, Gaye.Fedorchak@doe.nh.gov

C. Statewide Preschool Special Education Technical Assistance and Professional Development

The NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education is seeking proposals from individuals, agencies, or organizations to provide targeted technical assistance and professional development to improve outcomes for preschool children with disabilities and their families through the development and implementation of a Statewide Preschool Special Education Technical Assistance and Professional Development Network. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2012.

Contact: Barbara Raymond, (603) 271-3791 / Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

D. 21st Century Community Learning Center Program

The New Hampshire Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center Program announces its 2012 competition for an anticipated \$1.5 million in funding. The program's purpose is to raise student academic achievement through the creation and expansion of community learning centers during out of school time hours that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement their regular academic program. All schools with a minimum of 30% of the student population identified as recipients of the free/reduced lunch program by October 2011 are eligible to apply. Middle and high schools are eligible if the majority of the feeder elementary schools meet the eligibility criteria. Priority points were awarded to Schools and/or Districts in Need of Improvement.

Applicants for 21st CCLC funds must demonstrate collaboration between a local educational agency (LEA) and one or more community-based organizations (CBOs), faith based organizations (FBOs) or other public or private entities and must primarily serve students who attend schools with a high concentration of economically disadvantaged students. The lead agency may be the school, district, CBO, FBO or other organization but must always partner with an eligible school. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 14.

Contact: Suzanne Birdsall, (603) 520-6263, Suzanne.Birdsall@doe.nh.gov or
Christina MacDonald, (603) 271-7306, Christina.Macdonald@doe.nh.gov

HEARINGS

A. Library Media Specialist Ed 507.21 and Ed 614.11

A public hearing will be held February 15, 2012, in the State Board Room at the NH DOE. Deadline for submission of written comments is February 27, 2012 Rulemaking Notice 2012-4.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. RTI (Response to Instruction) Initiative

NH is one of nine states to receive intensive technical assistance from the National Center On RTI (NCRTI). Technical support was awarded through a competitive grant. Support is provided through professional development, access to national experts, and onsite guidance in the implementation of RTI. Six schools were identified to participate in a two year pilot site project. The six sites will receive direct support from a state and national team and share their best practices with other schools. The six schools are Amherst Middle School; Chichester; Lin-wood Elementary; Madison; Maple Ave (Claremont); and Nottingham.

The Goal of the two year project is to build state and local capacity and to develop a comprehensive “RTI Implementation Plan” that meets the needs of all students. Please refer to the RTI Web page at www.education.nh.gov/innovations/rti/index.htm for the RTI Strategic Plan, RTI resources and recent school presentations.

The next meeting of the RTI-PLC is February 28th from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.in Room 15 at the DOE.

Contact: Elaine McNulty Knight, Elaine.Mcnulty@doe.nh.gov

SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS

This section applies to both public and non-public schools

- A. School approval packets for private schools whose approval expires June 30, 2012 were due back by February 1, 2012.
- B. Fire and health inspection reports are due from all schools, public and private, whose approval expires June 30, 2012.
- C. Schools conditionally approved in 2011 should submit documentation of compliance as soon as possible. Schools that have previously been conditionally approved for three years, and that are still not meeting all requirements, will be required to request a Delay in Full Compliance from the State Board in person.
- D. The State Board of Education adopted revisions to Ed 306, *Minimum Standards for Public School Approval*, on December 14, 2011. The text of the changes can be found on the Department Web site at www.education.nh.gov/legislation/admin_rules_toc.htm. The changes are in bold and a different font so you can easily see where they are in the complete document. Important changes include:
 - a. Ed 306.27, High School Curriculum – Public high schools may now include on-line courses as part of the 45 credits that they are required to offer.
 - b. Ed 306.18, School Year – This rule has been simplified. Approval for calendars of fewer than 180 days is no longer required. Districts must notify the Department of reductions in days or their ADM calculation may be incorrectly reduced resulting in less adequacy funding. Minimum instructional hours for all grade 7 & 8 students is set at 990 regardless of school designation.
 - c. Ed 306.47, Technology Education – Changes in curriculum requirements.

- d. Ed 306.1, Food & Nutrition – Bell to bell nutrition standards adopted.
- e. There are important changes to several other standards.

Contact: Leslie Higgins, (603) 271-3759, Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov or
 Marie Morgan, (603) 271-4125, Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS)

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education has scheduled trainings on the New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS)

The trainings will be held in Room 15 at the NHDOE.

Meeting Date	Time	Participants
Wednesday, February 15	12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	NHSEIS for Teachers/Case Managers Session Workshop
Tuesday, February 21	9:00 a.m.-noon	NHSEIS Preschool Session Workshop
Thursday, March 8	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	NHSEIS CAT AID/Chapter 402 Session Workshop
Wednesday, March 14	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	NHSEIS Preschool Session Workshop
Thursday, March 29	9:00 a.m.-noon	NHSEIS Preschool Session Workshop
Friday, April 20	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	NHSEIS Office Professional Session Workshop

Contact: Terry Hersh, (603) 271-3775, Terry.Hersh@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs)

The Department is sponsoring several workshops on ELOs:

a) Coaching & Assessing Extended Learning Opportunities

Friday, March 9, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Workshop site: Southern NH University

Participants will: understand and apply essential assessment design elements; develop and apply assessment design protocols to support student-centered and competency-based learning; access a comprehensive collection of resources for assessing student-centered, competency-based learning; and join a network of practitioners committed to sharing resources, best practices, and solutions. \$45 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch

b) Implementing Extended Learning Opportunities in My School

Friday, May 4, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Workshop site: Southern NH University

Participants will: discover how other schools are providing structure and supports for ELOs; spend focused time with your leadership team tackling ELO

implementation at your school; create a network of local professionals interested in supporting ELOs for all students. \$25 per person includes lunch.

For sessions including meals registration and payment must be submitted nine days prior to session date. To register e-mail info@QEDfoundation.org or call (603) 672-2111.

Contact: Mariane Gfroerer, (603) 271-6691, Mariane.Gfroerer@doe.nh.gov

B. Special Education, Accessible Instructional Materials (NHAIM) Professional Development Opportunities

Topic: NHAIM / Sense of Science Series

When: Tuesday, March 6, 2012 ~ 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an APH Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: Sense of Science is a unique tactile/visual science series designed for visually impaired students in grades K-3, and for other students who may benefit from a multi-sensory approach to learning. Sense of Science is designed to make the world of science accessible, understandable, and enjoyable.

Topic: NHAIM / The Importance of Braille Literacy

When: Friday, April 13, 2012 ~ 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an APH Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: This presentation speaks to parents and school staff to help understand the importance of Braille Literacy for students.

Topic: NHAIM / The Digital Light Box

When: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 ~ 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an APH Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Topic: NHAIM / Cortical Visual Impairment

When: Monday, April 30, 2012 ~ 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Presenter: Christina Roman from APH

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: To help parents and educators gain a better understanding of Cortical Visual Impairment. Dr. Christina Roman is the APH Project Leader in the area of Cortical Visual Impairments. Chris, a well-known educator, author, and lecturer, has provided a number of

National Instructional Partnerships events for APH in the area of CVI as it relates to APH products. She is a member of our CVI Synergy focus group, and was instrumental in helping us develop and refine the "FDB" (Functions at the Definition of Blindness) category in the Federal Quota Student Registration System.

Topic: NHAIM / Cortical Visual Impairment

When: Tuesday May 1, 2012 ~ 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Presenter: Christina Roman from APH

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: To help parents and educators gain a better understanding of Cortical Visual Impairment. Dr. Christina Roman is the APH Project Leader in the area of Cortical Visual Impairments. Chris, a well-known educator, author, and lecturer, has provided a number of National Instructional Partnerships events for APH in the area of CVI as it relates to APH products. She is a member of our CVI Synergy focus group, and was instrumental in helping us develop and refine the "FDB" (Functions at the Definition of Blindness) category in the Federal Quota Student Registration System.

Topic: NHAIM / Book Port Plus

When: Friday, May 4, 2012 ~ 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an APH Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teacher's of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: Book Port Plus™ represents the latest generation of accessible media player/recorders. Its small size, quality recording, and unique capabilities make it an ideal replacement for cassette player/recorders, earlier Digital Talking Book (DTB) players, or inaccessible commercial digital recorders. Its specialized hardware and software makes Book Port Plus easier to use, more reliable, and more flexible than cell phones or PCs that might perform some of its functions.

All workshops will take place at the NHDOE in Room 15. Further information on products and presenters can be found at: www.aph.org.

Contact: Kerry Schmidt, (603) 271-0818, Kerry.L.Schmidt@doe.nh.gov

RESOURCES

A. Health Information Network

As the non-profit health and safety arm of the National Education Association (NEA), the NEA Health Information Network (NEA HIN) provides health and safety information, programs, and services. For information, research, reports, facts and supporting materials to help you make the most informed decisions about your health and safety and the health and safety of others go to www.neahin.org.

B. Assessment Speakers' Bureau

Seasoned speakers are prepared to serve as keynotes, panelists and moderators, expert witnesses, and media sources. Many of these experts started their careers as teachers and all are educators at heart. But their expertise in assessment and other education public policy matters enables them to lend a distinctive voice, no matter what the setting. For more information go to www.measuredprogress.org/speakers or contact Patricia Ross at ross.patricia@measuredprogress.org or 603.749.9102, ext. 2157.

OTHER

NH Teacher of the Year Nominations

Superintendents, principals, teachers, school staff members, teacher organizations, parents, and others interested in New Hampshire schools are encouraged to nominate an outstanding teacher by submitting their request to the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) by February 17, 2012. A Teacher of the Year candidate should be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled person from any state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, who intends to continue in the teaching profession. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. Selecting a Teacher of the Year is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching in New Hampshire schools. Teacher of the Year nomination forms and applications can be downloaded from the DOE Web site at www.education.nh.gov/recognition/toy.htm. Nominees must submit their applications to the NH DOE by March 19, 2012. All nominees who submit the required information will be honored at a ceremony in April.

Contact: Lori Temple, (603) 271-6646, Lori.Temple@doe.nh.gov

HEAL Excellence in Education Award

The second Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) "ED"ie award will be given this year to a school in New Hampshire that is outstanding in creating an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity opportunities and is achieving positive results for students and staff. The health of students is important to schools and a growing body of research indicates a positive association between school-based physical activity and academic performance. For more information and an application go to www.healnh.org.

National School Change Awards

The National School Change Awards is an Initiative of the National Principals Leadership Institute. This award recognizes schools that have significantly changed for the better. Responding to 16 specific criteria, each nominated school provides documentation and data to support their quest for this prestigious national award. Each year, six schools are selected. All materials must be received by March 9, 2012. For more information go to www.npli.org/nsca.

Caroline D. Bradley Scholarship

The Institute for Educational Advancement (IEA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of gifted young people. IEA encourages current 7th graders who demonstrate exceptional academic ability and intellectual precocity to apply for a Caroline D.

Bradley Scholarship. This is a national program that awards selected applicants with a four year scholarship to a high school that nurtures and supports each individual scholar's intellectual and personal needs. To learn more, go to www.educationaladvancement.org or call (626) 403-8900.

James Madison Memorial Fellowship

All New Hampshire secondary social studies teachers are invited to apply for the James Madison Memorial Fellowship. This \$24,000 fellowship is awarded annually to teachers to pursue a Masters Degree (MA, Med, or MAT) with an emphasis in Constitutional Studies. Applicants only compete against teachers from their own state. (No applications were received last year from New Hampshire residents.) Detailed information about the program as well as an on-line application can be found at www.jamesmadison.gov. The submission deadline is March 1, 2012.

National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Scholarship

The Boston NE NATAS Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (in coordination with the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts And Sciences) will award a \$2,500 scholarship to a high school senior who intends on declaring their major in the television or related field and will be attending a four year undergraduate college or university.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) High school senior graduating in 2012
- 2) Intends on declaring their major in the television or a related field
- 3) Will be attending a four year undergraduate college or university
- 4) New England resident

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2012. An application can be found at www.newenglandemmy.org. If you have any questions, please contact Jill D. Jones, NATAS Boston/New England, (617) 283-6314 or www.newenglandemmy.org.

New Hampshire Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

Young New Hampshire artists from kindergarten through grade 12 are invited to submit original artwork depicting North American waterfowl to the 2012 New Hampshire Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. The Best-of-Show winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, made possible by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All first-place winners will be awarded cash prizes of up to \$75. Entries are judged on both artistic merit and scientific accuracy with which specific waterfowl species are depicted. Competition guidelines and an entry form can be downloaded from www.wildnh.com/Education/Junior_Duck_Contest.htm, or contact N.H. Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Coordinator Ellen MacNeil at the N.H. Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 or call (603) 271-2461. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2012.

Teachers who want to integrate these lessons into their coursework can find a curriculum guide for teaching conservation through the arts at www.fws.gov/juniorduck/EducationProgram.htm.

The National WWII Museum Essay Contest.

The 2012 essay contest is now open for submissions. As The National WWII Museum launches a series of new STEM-based programs this year, we call on students to answer the

question, “What WWII invention or innovation has had the greatest impact on your life?” As in years past, the Museum does not want research papers. Students’ essays will be judged foremost for their originality, clarity of expression, and adherence to contest theme, as well as their historical accuracy, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. WWII Museum staff will read and evaluate entries. All essays must be submitted through the Museum Web site at www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests.

NASA Opportunity for Female High School Juniors

Female high school juniors are immersed in learning as they become members of the interactive online community WISH, facilitated by NASA. As part of their interactive learning experience, students complete lessons covering past, current and future space exploration. The lessons include an essay, math problem and quiz. They will be graded by certified teachers. To enhance their studies, students will be able to chat with NASA subject matter experts. After completing the lessons, each student will submit a final project based on a leading female STEM professional who is developing cutting-edge technology or performing new research. As part of the experience, students will compete to attend the summer workshop at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where they will work alongside female NASA engineers and interns to design a mission to Mars. For more information go to <http://wish.aerospacescholars.org>. Deadline to apply is February 22, 2012.

“Own the Night” This Summer

The Young Adult Librarians of New Hampshire announce the 2012 Teen Video Challenge, part of a national competition asking teens to create 30-90 second public service announcements that encourage reading and using public libraries during the summer. Using this year’s theme, “Own the Night,” teens can incorporate dreams, astronomy, supernatural stories and other nighttime motifs into their videos.

Entries will be judged on: creativity; message clarity and relevance; motivation and inspiration; and overall impact. Participants must be 13 – 18 years old and legal residents of New Hampshire. They may work on their own or as a team. Deadline to enter is March 12, 2012.

For more information about New Hampshire’s “Own the Night” 2012 Teen Video Challenge, visit www.nashualibrary.org/YALS/CSLP2012.htm.

Poetry Out Loud High School State Championship: March 26, 2012, 6 p.m. at the NH State House, Representatives Hall in Concord.

This event is free and open to the public. The state finals championship determines which student from about 40 NH high schools will represent New Hampshire in the national Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition in Washington, D.C. in May, 2012. Dates and places for the four regional semi-final events taking place in early March are posted at: www.nh.gov/nharts; or visit www.PoetryOutLoud.org, or contact Catherine O’Brian, Arts in Education Coordinator, NH State Council on the Arts, catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov, (603) 271-0795.

FY 2013 Artist Residencies in Schools Grant

Artist Residencies in Schools (AIR) provide partial funding to bring juried teaching artists into classrooms and public schools to support creative learning and skills development in the arts. AIR grants support partial costs for artist residencies in a variety of arts disciplines, including all forms of visual arts (ceramics, drawing, painting, printmaking, weaving, etc.), dance,

film/video, music, theatre, traditional arts and creative writing. Deadline is March 2, 2012. For more information go to www.nh.gov/nharts/grants/partners/artistresidencies.htm or contact Catherine O'Brian, Arts in Education Coordinator, NH State Council on the Arts, catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov, (603) 271-0795.

Librarians Conference

Love literacy? Register for the 2012 NH School Library Media Association Annual Conference--Today's Librarian: More Essential Than Ever. The conference takes place on May 15 -16, 2012 at Church Landing in Meredith, NH. Visit <http://nhslma.org/events/annual-conference-12/> for more information.

"More than a Month" Screening

Plymouth State University in collaboration with Red River Theatres and NH Public Television is offering a free screening of the film *More than a Month*. *More than a Month* is a feature documentary that follows Shukree Hassan Tilghman, an African-American filmmaker, on a cross-country campaign to end Black History Month. Through this challenging, complex, and often comedic journey, the film explores what the treatment of history tells us about race and equality in "post-racial" America. A panel discussion will follow after the film. This event is taking place at the Red River Theatre in Concord on Tuesday, February 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Cheryl Baker at cbaker@plymouth.edu.

ENC-Teacher Exchange

Nutrition educators and other family and consumer sciences teachers throughout the U.S. interested in sharing, using or helping to develop effective nutrition teaching tools for students in grades 1 thru 12 are invited to go online to join a free knowledge-sharing program called ENC-Teacher Exchange. As the ENC-Teacher Exchange program grows from infancy through fruition in 2012, it will feature specific types of nutrition education programs that, in the opinion of nutrition educators, resonate with their students. Teachers who join ENC-Teacher Exchange will be encouraged to share their best nutrition tools, which ENC will package with downloadable assets and make available for free at www.encteacher.org.

Zebra Crossings

Zebra Crossings can help your child and family connect with others who are crossing the same challenging terrain of living with a chronic health condition. They are here to help youth with a chronic health condition discover the opportunities that exist for living life to the fullest. They offer diverse year round programs ranging from social gatherings, day events to overnight experiences. They understand that the needs of all family members are different and that every family member needs a support network. Therefore, they offer variety in their program options and activities. Some programs are for children with a chronic health condition, some are for siblings only and some are for the entire family, where parents can have some respite time as well. For more information go to www.zebra-crossings.org.

Hat Trick for Reading Program - 2012

The Manchester Monarchs "Hat Trick for Reading" Program is designed to help stimulate interest in reading among Elementary School children (grades K-5) in New Hampshire, as well as surrounding areas. This program will be open to Public School, Private School, and Home School Groups.

Each participant is asked to read at least three books during a specified time period (usually three to four weeks.) It will be up to the Media Specialist, Teacher, or School Administration to determine appropriate reading materials. After students complete their reading, they will be required to submit to the teacher “proof” they read their book (i.e. AR test, essay, report, etc.).

You can choose one of the following dates for your school to participate in the program, once you select a date for your school the Monarchs will provide you with a form to send home to parents. Dates to choose from: February 19th or 26th; March 4th, 11th, or 25th; or April 15th.

The students who complete the program will receive a ticket to the game you have chosen for your school and the parents will be offered a discount rate for extra tickets. Students will also receive a 2011-2012 Monarchs Education day workbook while supplies last. Your school will sit together at the game and be announced on the video board. All paid tickets will receive a free voucher for 1 chuck a puck.

For more information about how your school can benefit from the Monarchs “Hat Trick for Reading” Program, please contact Bob McCaffrey at (603) 626-7825 or Email: Rmccaffrey@manchestermonarchs.com.

Wonders of Wildlife (WOW) Presentations

Teachers who want to introduce their students in grades 3-6 to New Hampshire’s wildlife resources -- or reinforce wildlife-related lessons they have learned -- have until February 29 to request spring 2012 WOW presentations by trained New Hampshire Fish and Game Department volunteer docents. WOW is a series of active educational programs presented in the classroom.

Any teacher who has not already scheduled a WOW presentation this school year may schedule a session for their students. To download a print-and-mail application, visit www.wildnh.com/Education/Wonders_of_Wildlife.html and click on “Program Request Form.”